

REMARKS

This Response, submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 25, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of objection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 11 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 5-10, 12 and 13 have been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Sakuma (US SIR H1201) in view of Hosoi et al (USP 4,880,987) and Verbecke et al (USP 5,519,229). Applicant submits the following in traversal of the rejection.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant submits that the specification is in proper form and is grammatically correct.

In addition, Applicant submits along with this Response, a corrected formal drawing (Fig. 2) approved by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 25, 2003.

Turning to the merits of the Office Action, the Examiner maintains Sakuma discloses a radiation imaging panel having a rectangular shape, wherein the shape of the radiation imaging panel is asymmetric with respect to a center axis of the radiation imaging panel which center axis extends in an antero-posterior direction of the radiation imaging panel.

The Examiner concedes Sakuma lacks a radiation image storage panel comprising a stimuable phosphor layer overlaid on the front surface side of a transparent substrate and cites Hosoi or Verbecke to cure the deficiency.

Hosoi Fig. 5 discloses a stimulating ray source 2 which emits stimulating rays onto a stimuable phosphor sheet 1 consisting of a transparent substrate 1A and a stimuable phosphor

layer 1B. Column 5, lines 15-17. It is apparent upon viewing the figure, that the stimuable phosphor layer is not overlaid on the front surface side of a transparent substrate, but on a back side of the transparent substrate 1A. Therefore, a combination of Sakuma and Hosoi does not disclose an image storage panel having a rectangular shape comprising a transparent substrate and a stimuable phosphor layer overlaid on a *front surface side* of the transparent substrate, as described in claim 1 and as described throughout the specification of the present invention.

Moreover, Verbecke, which was additionally cited for teaching an image storage panel, does not disclose a radiation image storage panel comprising a transparent substrate and a stimuable phosphor layer overlaid on a front surface side of the transparent substrate, as described in claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that the combination of Sakuma and Hosoi is not obvious. The cassette of Sakuma was designed to accommodate a film 3, 5, or 7, and not a stimuable phosphor layer overlaid on a front surface side of a transparent substrate. A cassette and an image storage panel used must be compatible in order to function appropriately. Modifying the cassette of Sakuma to incorporate the stimuable phosphor layer and transparent substrate of Hosoi, would require a substantial reconstruction and redesign of Sakuma as well as a change in the basic principle under which the construction was designed to operate. Therefore, the combination is not obvious and the Examiner's reasoning is merely a result of hindsight. MPEP 2143.01.

For the above reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed patentable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

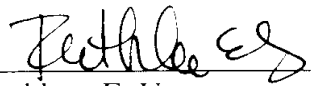
RESPONSE UNDER C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/804,080

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q61195

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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